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ABSTRACT

Some children hold the belief that insects and spiders are all mere nuisances because they have never had opportunities to observe, study, and learn to appreciate how these animals live and carry out their purposes in life. Studying insects and spiders fosters children's natural curiosity about the world around them and encourages them to use their five senses. This cross-curricular guide provides opportunities for children to build concepts by introducing them to insects, butterflies, moths, and spiders. Each animal study includes some or all of the following: art, creative drama, music and dancing, informational books, research, writing, cooking, and mathematics. Science skills emphasized include observing, following directions, classifying, creating models, manipulating materials, using numbers, asking questions, finding information, making predictions, designing investigations, communicating or recording information, drawing conclusions, and applying knowledge. Each chapter starts with a science goal followed by ideas on how to plan for the activities, lists of visual aids, and related words for discussion. (LZ)

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